JL, HR

Dear David, 2/2/74

While I do not begrudge her the pleasureable and apparently exhausting evening your association's Ms. Roth seems to have enjoyed in Washington, I do regret that she did not get here for a number of reasons, mostly what her presence would have brought back to my mind after so many years. The nature of the archival material I have is much more elaborate than you or she have any way of knowing . Even Jim, because it was not in my mind.

It covers a number of eras, several careers, and aside from the assassinations material is rich in the exclusive. What I don t know is how much remains of some, the files decimated by The Hollywood Ten. I believe that all the expense accounts of the Dies Un-American Committee are still here. (Let me be crass and not professional and ask how much that alone is worth?) I also can t say what remains of my Nazi cartel work because I gave it it British intelligence and our own Department of Justice. I know the FBI kept the best if not all the files on a replay of the Smedly Butler affair not completely reported in the current book. (This reminds me that any interest in my materials should begin with exhaustive questioning and chatting on tape because I can fill the gap in there- the financial institution behind the Butler thing. It was the house now known as Paine, Webber, the same one that gave us J. Parnell Thomas (nee Feeney, Dies colleague and later jailbird.)

Even after being reminded of this yesterday, the immediate inspiration for this letter, I can t retrieve all I should.

Some years ago I became concerned about preserving some of this material. Before the JFK assassination. So, most of my labor and economic stuff found a home then, a different home than it now is, the United Mine Workers. That archive included hundreds of irreplacable hearings, like Senate Munitions, Railroad, Wartime TNEC and Prepardness and I can't now recall all. It is all that my wife, who was also part of several sensational investigations, and I had accumulated except for the set of my own hearings I still have. They should be close to priceless to labor interests and for you, the subcommittee chairman was a Wisconsinite not his father's son, young Bob LaFollette (the worst employer for whom I ever worked, and this includes Pierre DuPont and Walter Annenberg!).

("My own" meaning I edited.)

When events began catching up with what I planned for one of two related books, Tiger to Ride, on JFK's policies, etc., I let Howard Roffman, a history major at Penn (four point while doing much else), have my Vietnam file. Early stuff. He raved. I've forgotten some of it. He reminded me of what tells me that history is like all else, it is too important to leave to historians: I had a contemporaneous and accurate analysis of the Tonkin Gulf business in it. I think he xeroxed and returned that. Yesterday I was also reminded that there were other such incidents only they did not have these consequences. I have notes and analyses of them. Including Cuba, where we started and aborted several wierd deals. I spent much time on one that you will remember, the fishing boats at Key West.

I also planned a book Aesop in the State Department. I have a rather good set of Latin American clippings of that era and stage in our foreign policy. Including how we indoctrinated their military, trained it for dictatorship roles since served.

Energy crisis? My pre-World War II investigations files should include what was too hot even for the leading crusading paper of that period. Ralph Ingersoll's (and Fields') PM and all its luminaries, Izzy Stone being the surviving luminary. I had and gave Justice what I alone discovered and documented with photostats, the I.G.Farben-Standard Oil (NJ) deals on synthetic rubber and -hold it !- synthetic gas. The end result is that the US was denied both. Control but not suppression on plastics patents, which involves Hugh Scott as Nazi defender of that day, when he was a Congressman. The America Firsters caught up with Annenberg (credit via Chicago banks) and me when I was on stainless steel (Krupp-Nichrosta as I recall). Old Moe Annenberg was then in jail and Nixon's pal Walter, his son, ran the properties for one of which I was Washinbton correspondent.

All that remains of my accurate prediction of Pearl Harbor is the story. I gave all the research to the government 8 a.m. 12/8/41. Lowell Mellett and K.C.Blackburn, both friends. Their agency was then The Office of Government Reports.

I still have two file drawers of my files on native fasicts organizations and people.

A

About eight months ago I had need for my Vonsiatsky file. It should have a bit on Haldeman's grandad and his Better America group. What I still have depends on what I can't remember, how much the Hollywood unappreciatiaves got and what Drew Pearson did not return.

Much on the early J. Edgar Hoover, too.

Unusual bits and pieces should still turn up. Jim probably told you of the Dies effort to get me. It ended with what I think has never been duplicated: I took the grand jury away from the United States Attorney and the Dies agent was convicted. I was not indicted. I was, of course, the victim. They had a law passed to get me. Said U.S.Attorney wound up with so much respect for me, a kid, that he gave me the grand jury minutes he though I might in the future need for my own protection. Dies' testimony included. (This is the law Weicher cited in the Watergate hearings. Like most laws, it is unrepealed.)

Some of this came back yesterday when a local history professor visited me. He is running an assassinations seminar at a small, conservative formerly all-woman's college, Hood. Right focus: political consequences. One of the gals is coming this afternoon to discuss some work for me. She is to consolidate all our indexes, which includes limited editions, and about 2,000 pages of FBI reports I haven't even looked at yet. (This means it will include the documents and more than a half-million words of completed writing that is not printed but is copyrighted, which is not all the writing I have done that is not printed. I have most of a book, Manchester Machiavelli, in draft and abandoned, and A Citizen's Descent, which takes Lane's monster apart, and other work I'll yet complete, like Agent Oswald, where I've done five-six chapters, and more.)

This local prof sees the value of what I have and when he finds the moment he considers best for a conservative administration will suggest that this can have great value for it.

Some years ago I had agreed to let all this stuff go to Yale. I had a benefactor who also ran a CIA conduit foundation (Arthur Price.) Arthur collected an unofficial JFK archive, mostly all his speeches. I provided one nobody else had. I had a friend who was there with the only tape recorder. Anyway, the time came when I told Arthur, since died, that this was my only real asset and I would not let it go except in return for making my continuing this work possible. So, I still have it because he did die.

The Watergate part will have some value. It includes what is still suppressed and some of my own and unduplicated inquiry. Much on CIA. Unused documents, too. Summaries of the still secret, etc. Almost a full file cabinet now. (500 pages of a series of books written.) The only analyses of the roles of the prosecution and the FBI of which I know are done.

My purpose in this pre-dawn letter on a busy day is to promote a little competition. I haven't made any real effort to do anything, as you know, by way of finding a home for my materials. The local possibility tells me now is the time. There is my own alma mater, now one of the larger small colleges (Delaware), and today I'll have a visit from a young Baltimore reporter who has just become interestedin my work. He would probably speak to some of the colleges there.

Don't underestimate the value of picking my brains and recollections. I was in OSS (stole no secret papers, though), was in the State Department, did a couple of small jobs for the FDR and Truman White Houses, and have a considerable amount of knowledge of early military ploys during and after World War III. Much of the captured Nazi and Mussolini files passed through my hands. I know who memory-holed what (not by any means all). I helped the then State intelligence director try to retrieve some of what the military hid. I boozed with Congressmen and Senators, ghosted speeches for a number, etc.

One of the more maligned and less appreciate political figures of that day was a close personal friend. Vito Marcantonio lived with me. He would make a helluve book, a maggificent thesis, and much of this would have to come from my recall. And my wife's. She was one of his secretaries for a while. So good at it that when they finally got him the Republican House leader, Wadsworth, asked her to go to work for him. ~~xxxxx~~ Marc was responsible for much that we have today, way ahead of his time. I drove him to the White House for his meetings with FDR and with a little prompting could recall much of what he told me when he came back to the car in which I was driving him. Fair Employment Practises Commission was one of these. Others were in foreign policy.

I was also friends with several Attorney's General (not close) and Assistant Attorneys General inx charge of divisions. I suplied some of the materials for one of FDR's more

sensational fireside chats and still recall how I got that stuff out of that country and here, via the diplomatic pouch. State and Justice were different in FDR's day and I knew the right guys. (Reminds me, I am the one who exposed George Messerschmidt as a secret Nazi, which did not prevent his subsequent career, was it as Ambassador to Vienna?) I have, if nothing else, the story, which includes some pictures, at least of the Diario de la Marina family and him and real, then-live, authentic Nazis in Havana. The Maestri family, I think Raul in the picture(s). My memory is not too bad on these things, despite its failings.) A novel was written around the things I then did, by an editor for whom I worked.

As I think you can realize, I did not plan this letter and I know you have no magic. Things are just popping into my mind as I write. I did considerable work in the files of the Clerk of the House under the old Corrupt Practises Act. I should still have many notes on what I found in GOP returns, especially Nazi, native Nazi, connections.

I did a lot of work of Father Coughlin and gave it to Jack Spivack (The Shrine of the Silver Dollar, the book that did Coughlin in) but with this and other projects, one of which ended the pro-Nazi investigation of the movie industry in the Senate, I don't recall what remains outside my recollection. The owners were as unappreciative as their later victims, the Ten, who returned nothing. This was also true of lawyers, one today famous as a crusader and then in the CIO's office, who also returned nothing.

Please excuse the typos. I don't have time to read and correct without letting what I can't let slip today go undone.

In volume I have seven stuffed file cabinets in my office, several more in the basement, and countless boxes and loaded bookshelves.

And I know where complementary and supplementary materials should be available.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg